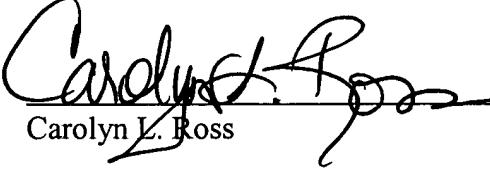


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PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE
**OFFICE ACTION RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE - EXAMINING GROUP 3700**

PATENT

I hereby certify that on the date specified below, this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

August 24, 2004


Carolyn L. Ross

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 09/910,638	Confirmation No. : 3241
Applicant : Nathan R. Brown	
Filed : July 20, 2001	Attorney Docket No.: 500200.05
Art Unit : 3723	Customer No. : 27,076
Examiner : Alvin J. Grant	
Title : METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CHEMICAL-MECHANICAL PLANARIZATION OF MICROELECTRONIC SUBSTRATES WITH A CARRIER AND MEMBRANE	

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

Sir:

Applicant acknowledges receipt of the Office Action dated July 2, 2004.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper.